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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Baker, Christ United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God and Loving Lord, we, Your people, call to mind the scriptures which remind us, saying, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." You are our God, and we are Your people, the sheep of Your pasture. Lead us this day, O Gentle Shepherd, in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.

Send upon us this day the gifts that can only come from You. Grant us understanding, grant us wisdom, and grant us courage for the facing of these days. Give us as well the gift of unity, as we are reminded that a house divided against itself cannot stand. May we strive to be of one heart and mind as we seek to accomplish Your divine purpose, here on Earth, as it is in heaven.

We ask all of this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. VAUGHN BAKER, CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas, Congresswoman GRANGER, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome Dr. Vaughn Baker, his wife, Jacqueline, and his daughter, Amanda, to the House of Representatives this morning to lead us in prayer. Dr. Baker is the senior pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and has various churches around Texas and the Republic of Ireland.

Dr. Baker earned his undergraduate degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and worked on his postgraduate degrees at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Dr. Baker is also finishing his doctorate of theology dissertation from the University of South Africa in the field of missiology, the area of practical theology that investigates the mandate, message, and work of the Christian missionary.

Dr. Baker's family has also made service a core part of their lives. Dr. Baker's wife, Jacqueline, is a special education teacher in Weatherford, Texas, and his daughter, Amanda, is currently finishing two degrees at the University of Texas in Austin. Amanda has been involved in overseas education programs and has also been involved with mission work in Turkey. Dr. Baker and his wife currently live in Weatherford, Texas.

We thank Dr. Baker very much for leading us in prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Reforming health insurance must be our duty and responsibility. The vast majority of Americans have health insurance. The question is what does our health insurance reform mean for them.

It means that insurance companies no longer will decide to deny your coverage or jack up your insurance rate because of preexisting conditions.

It means that it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you get sick or water it down when you need it the most.

It means that there will be a yearly limit on how much you can be charged for out-of-pocket expenses, because no one should go broke because they get sick.

It means that premiums will stop growing three times faster than your wages, because more competitiveness in insurance markets will hold premiums down.

It means that if you lose your job or change your job, you'll be able to get affordable coverage.

In short, what health insurance reform means for millions of Americans who are insured today is more security and stability. Americans should not have to wait longer for this reform. Congress must act this year.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the

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